

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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The CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—as long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1903.

The Assembly Nominee.

Hampden L. Johnstone of 96 Ridge-wood avenue, Glen Ridge, who has been nominated by the Republicans of this county to succeed Robert M. Boyd, Jr., of Montclair in the House of Assembly, has been a resident of Glen Ridge for several years. When Mr. Johnstone came from New York here and took up his residence in Glen Ridge the borough was then a part of the township of Bloomfield. He at once took an active and commendable interest in public affairs, in politics, schools and churches. He evinced a pronounced disposition towards independence and progressiveness in action and speech, and was never at a loss for courage and ability to express his opinions in public assemblages.

Mr. Johnstone had not been long a resident of this vicinity when he directed his attention to the methods of property assessments for taxes in vogue here at the time and pointed out some existing inconsistencies in the assessments and made some remedial suggestions. His practical knowledge of the subject of assessments doubtless led to his selection as Assessor of taxes for the borough of Glen Ridge when that municipality was created in 1895. The promotion of the common welfare as against the gratification of personal ambition has ever been characteristic of Mr. Johnstone's public career, and the side with which he has been identified in all questions, whether of municipal government, or schools, or church, has been that on which have been arrayed those who are governed by the highest sentiments of right and justice. Even as an ardent advocate of the creation of the borough of Glen Ridge the righteousness of Mr. Johnstone's motives and opinions can not be called into question and it would savor of narrowness and prejudice for any Republican in the town to withhold his support or withdraw his influence in promoting Mr. Johnstone's election simply because he was an advocate of borough government for Glen Ridge. That was a purely local issue and should not be dragged into State affairs.

The action of the Bloomfield delegates in the county convention in heartily seconding and unanimously voting for Mr. Johnstone's nomination should serve as an example and stimulant to the entire Republican party of the town.

In irreproachable character, in unimpeachable integrity and in honest zeal for the common welfare Mr. Johnstone stands on an equality with the many good men upon whom the people of this part of Essex County have conferred legislative honors, and there is every reason to believe that the trust that the Republican party of Essex County now desires to impose upon the Assembly nominee from Glen Ridge will not be misplaced. The Republicans of Glen Ridge have loyally supported a Bloomfielder for member of the Board of Freeholders and it will only be just and proper for the Republicans of the town to return the compliment for it is a case in which town and borough can make common cause.

The New Primary Law.

The State's new Primary Election law was in operation Tuesday for the first time at the primaries held throughout the State. The results achieved have in the main been satisfactory to the reform members of the dominant party, although enough defects have been discovered to make necessary the enactment of several important amendments at the coming session of the Legislature.

The polls of each voting precinct were open from 1 o'clock in the afternoon to 9, with separate ballot boxes for Republican and Democratic nominees, the members of the two parties represented on the Board of Registry and Election having control of their respective boxes. The entire Board counted the votes of independent parties with tickets in the field.

It was necessary for the voter to declare his political affiliation and the Republican ballot cast in a Democratic box, or vice versa, did not count. The primary was conducted much the same as general elections, votes being cast direct for freeholders, council, justices of the peace and constables, and for delegates for senators, assemblymen and other officers to be selected at nomination conventions.

Democrats Opportunity.

The new primary law, if it is continued in force, affords the Democrats of this town a favorable opportunity to organize the local Democracy and place it in a position to be a factor in legal government. Notwithstanding, the new primary law made it a crime punishable with imprisonment for the members of one political party to vote in the primary of another political party, the provisions of the law were openly disregarded by Democrats in all the election districts in which there was Republican contests.

One reason for this wholesale demoralization of the local Democracy is the lack of organization, and the way to compel the party to organize is for some of the local Democrats to threaten the members of their party with an enforcement of the primary law to its full extent, even to the punishment of those who give their votes to either side in a Republican factional fight. The probability is that the primary law will hasten the general abolition of all spring elections throughout this State, and such a result will force the local Democracy to organize and probably result in a healthy opposition in local politics.

The Democrats of Bloomfield should profit by the example set by that zealous Democrat Edward Hart of East Orange. Everybody who knows anything about politics at all, knows that the city of East Orange has for years presented a most discouraging outlook for the Democracy, but Mr. Hart kept up an organization even under the most discouraging circumstances, with the result that the East Orange Democracy, although it has never given a majority for any county or State candidate, is nevertheless an important factor in county politics, and Mr. Hart is able to distribute rewards to the faithful whenever anything in the shape of patronage fails in the way of the county Democracy. Mr. Hart never permits the influence of the Democratic organization in East Orange to be handed over free of charge to any citizens or independent or Republican factional movements. An equivalent is always stipulated for by Mr. Hart in the way of a proportionate share of the spoils of victory to be divided among the faithful.

If Mr. Hart's policy was followed here by some of the leading local Democrats it would put a stop to members of that party placing themselves in danger of going to jail for voting in Republican primaries.

Republican County Convention.

The Essex County Republican Convention for nominating candidates for Members of Assembly was held in Kreuger's Auditorium, Newark, Wednesday night. There was a large attendance of Republicans from throughout the county present. Major Carl Lentz, Chairman of the County Committee, was enthusiastically greeted as he appeared upon the platform to call the convention to order.

James E. Bathgate, Jr., of Newark, was made chairman of the convention, Charles F. Kocher, of the delegates of this town, was placed on the Committee on Rules, Harry L. Osborne of the First Ward, was made chairman of the delegation from this town. When the course of making nominations the imaginary district comprising this town and Glen Ridge was reached Arthur J. Lockwood, one of the borough delegates, arose and presented the name of Hampden L. Johnstone of Glen Ridge. Mr. Lockwood made appropriate remarks setting forth the qualifications of Mr. Johnstone for the position for which he was named. The Bloomfield delegates seconded the nomination and unanimously supported the nomination.

The Assembly ticket nominated is as follows:

William Pennington, Newark.
Frederick R. Leibach, Newark.
Frederick Manners, Newark.
Abraham Kaiser, Newark.
Herbert W. Taylor, Newark.
John J. Gallagher, Newark.
Samuel F. Wilson, Newark.
Edward D. Birkholz, Orange.
Hampden L. Johnstone, Glen Ridge.
Edward Colby, West Orange.
Edward D. Duftield, South Orange.

The convention declared in favor of the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt for President and this declaration met with an enthusiastic reception.

Mutually Arranged.

It has been generally supposed that when it should come around to the borough of Glen Ridge to have the honor of presenting one of its citizens as a candidate for Assemblyman on the Republican County ticket Frank S. Benson would be the man selected. Consequently it was a surprise to many to hear on Thursday that Hampden L. Johnstone and not Mr. Benson had been put forward for Assembly honors by the Republicans of the borough.

It now turns out that the action of the Convention was the outcome of a mutual understanding between Mr. Benson and Mr. Johnstone, and that the former was desirous that Mr. Johnstone should be the candidate. Business reasons, it is said, prevented Mr. Benson from entering into politics at this time.

State Fish and Game Commissioner Riley has published a statement declaring illegal the shooting of doves this fall. Doves in the new law have been classed as wild fowl, not as game birds. The new classification led sportsmen to believe that because of no specific mention of doves these birds could be shot.

Councillor Mann's Views.

In a careful review of the operation of the new primary election law the leaders of the Republican party, the lawyers and practical politicians do not find so much that is objectionable in the act. It is conceded, even by the most earnest friends of the measure, that the act should be amended in certain respects, to overcome the various incompatibilities which have manifested themselves in the working of the new law. County Councilor Joseph L. Mann, who was a member of the State commission that framed the act, asserts that many of the apparent discrepancies in the law are due to the changes wrought by the Legislature while the act was before that body.

The County Counsel calls attention to the fact that the ballot reform act, under which the elections are conducted throughout the State reached its present satisfactory condition largely through being amended in accordance with the developments brought about by experience. He believes that the new act will be amended so as to overcome the difficulties shown in the recent primaries and that the law will be acceptable to all the people when it has reached the final stage.

Former Judge Wilbur A. Mott, who has made a study of the new law, and who probably knows more about it than any other man in the State, aside from the members of the commission, also believes that the law will remain on the statute books with such amendments as may be suggested by experience with its operation.

Increased Salaries.

At the sessions of the New Jersey State Firemen's Relief Association held on the steel pier at Atlantic City Thursday, there was a lively time over the fixing of the salary of the counsel of the association, W. A. Cotter. John J. Lane of Summit presented a resolution to fix the salary at \$1,000 a year. An amendment was offered that his salary be fixed at \$350. This caused the liveliest kind of discussion. Mr. Lane explained that the salary now paid was the same as in other years, and as his work was getting harder all the time he could see no reason for the amendment. Some of the Bergen County delegates were of the opinion that \$350 was plenty, as the counsel did not have more than a few hours' work during the year. The amendment was lost. The salaries of the other officers were fixed as follows: Treasurer, \$250; Secretary, \$500; Financial Secretary, \$250; Assistant Secretaries, \$150; Auditor, \$500.

Defective Ballots.

In consequence of a discovery made Thursday that the official ballots for the coming constitutional amendment election were not uniform in size, Secretary of State, Samuel D. Dickinson, ordered the county clerks of New Jersey to return to his office the ballots, and the official printer is hurrying the corrected ballots.

An agent of the Democratic party who is very anxious to defeat the judiciary amendment ordered 100,000 ballots, which he intended to prepare negatively. He found that the margins of the ballots were from three-eights to one inch in width, and called the attention of the Secretary of State to the fact, at the same time seeking an opinion on the legality of stamping the word "against" on margins with a rubber stencil.

The Secretary of State was pleased to gather information from the opponents to the impending measure that the ballots sent out were defective and open to attack in the courts.

The question of stamping the word "against" has been referred to Attorney-General McCarter for an opinion.

Christian Endeavor Notes.

The Christian Endeavor Fresh Air Home in Glen Ridge will close next Tuesday for the season. Over two hundred children, many accompanied by their mothers, were cared for during the summer.

Thursday evening a delegation from the First Baptist Christian Endeavor Society of this town visited the Fresh Air Home, taking a treat for the inmates, and the president, William Maxfield, addressed the children.

But five weeks remain before the State Endeavor convention convenes in Orange. A large attendance is expected as the program promises to be one of the best ever prepared.

Essex Endeavorers will unanimously concur in the resolutions passed by the First Baptist Church of this town, and presented to the pastor, the Rev. Charles A. Cook, who has resigned. Mr. Cook will enter upon his new duties next month. As head of the State Bible study work Mr. Cook has become well and favorably known to New Jersey Endeavorers.

James T. Boyd Council.

James T. Boyd Council, No. 244, Jr. O. U. A. M., met Thursday night with a very good attendance and initiated three candidates, and next Thursday night they expect to initiate three or four more. The committee who were appointed to go to Clinton report a very satisfactory state of affairs, and it is expected that there will be a council instituted there in a short time.

Friendship Offering.

A glad greeting, oh, friend of ours,
We give to you to-day,
And thanks for flowers in summer hours
You've scattered on our way.
A blessed mission is this gift of flowers
Of love and tenderness,
Smoothing the furrowed brow of care,
And scattering sunbeams everywhere
To brighten and to bless.

For deep is the heart of each tiny cup
Is hidden a kindly thought,
And the magical spell that we know so well
With its perfume'd breath that's fraught.
May fresh flowers bloom around you,
And evening glories strew
Your path towards the sunset
In the golden afterglow.

KATIE DID.

August 26, 1903.

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